

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A peer-to-peer method and system for performing and managing backups in a network of nodes exploit excess disk capacity to perform peer-to-peer backup with no administrative costs. Each node minimizes storage overhead by selecting peer nodes that share substantial amounts of data. Common installations find suitable peer nodes and peer nodes with high overlap are identified. The method and system also provide mechanisms for confidentiality, integrity, and detection of failed or malicious peer nodes.